

ment develops. These combinations of characters are what are called races, and it is in that sense that the study of race is so urgently necessary, and remains of the utmost importance. But these ever-changing entities form a very unstable foundation for any conception of susceptibility to disease. Everywhere miscegenation is going on, and has been going on for as far back as we have evidence. Genes cannot be isolated for long in any permanent association with more than perhaps a few other genes, so that no defective gene can remain for long linked to any of the characters which are used to mark out races. Therefore, whatever the truth about race in general, in medicine we must agree with Huxley : "Race is a pseudo-scientific term," which should have no place in the study of disease. Its use obscures the truth, prevents the recognition of the real causes of disease, and the application of the correct remedies, and, in especial, there is no evidence of any racial susceptibility to disease in Ireland. If there seems to be such a susceptibility, it is due, not to race, but to causes which are preventable, and it is our responsibility to do what we can to prevent them.

REVIEW

THE DYSENTERIC DISORDERS. By Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. Cassell & Co. 30/-.

THIS is an excellent and comprehensive work dealing very thoroughly with the complex subject, a subject beset with so many pitfalls even for the very elect.

The varied and complicated possibilities which arise in investigating this condition are well brought out, and the thorough and painstaking steps necessary to arrive at a correct diagnosis are given in orderly detail.

The Dysenteries, both Bacillary and Amoebic, are done, as one would expect, in very great detail, and will constitute a reliable and authoritative source of reference for the practitioner engaged in tropical practice.

The coloured plates are good, particularly those dealing with the various sigmoidoscopic appearances; indeed all the illustrations are excellent.

The section dealing with affections of the colon resembling dysentery is a valuable reminder to the tropical practitioner of the ever-present danger of missing a carcinoma or other possible cause of the dysenteric syndrome.